

References to "Wasatch Valley"
(meaning: "Wasatch County Valley")

1. "HORUM," DUG, 1963, pp 42

CHAPTER FIVE

...And They Loved the Lord Their God Much

The Mormon pioneers in their westward trek sought an area where religious freedom would be unquestioned. Bitter persecutions in the east and mid-west had forced them to leave established communities and search for new homes on the western frontier.

When Zion was established in the tops of the mountains near the Great Salt Lake, President Brigham Young was both leader of the Church and head of the civil government. This mixture of Church and state proved entirely fair because only members of the Church lived in the area.

Later developments, however, and an influx of non-Church members forced a separation and the appointment of civil officials in the territory by officers of the federal government.

As the central settlement of Salt Lake City became established and the community grew, President Young called faithful members of the Church to begin colonizing the outlying areas. Valleys that showed promise of sufficient water and livable climates were scouted and plans were made for settlements.

Those who left their homes in Salt Lake or other established areas often suffered extreme privation before they conquered the elements and created homes and farms to sustain themselves. Moving into an area, they first had to select farm and home sites that appeared suitable. The land had to be cleared and irrigation waters controlled. Logs had to be hewn for homes and buildings. These dwellings usually had dirt floors, dirt roofs and mud packed into the cracks between the logs.

Yet, in spite of hardships that would have caused a less hardy people to give up and return to the areas that others before them had won from the wilderness, these people kept on struggling until victory was theirs.

The motivating influence that helped them endure the struggles of winning a new land was a firm faith that what they were doing was inspired of God. Believing in the divine mission of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they knew that their pioneering work would open the way for others to carry on the work of God on the earth.

As members of the Church moved into the Wasatch or Provo Valley area they quickly built churches in which to worship and renew their faith and conviction. The first group that moved into the valley selected William Meeks to be their spiritual leader. However, when Elder Meeks chose not to make a permanent home in the valley, William Madison Wall was named presiding elder over the new valley, and given authority to conduct Church business.